

**U.S. 224 Road Reconstruction Project from
the St. Mary's River Bridge to just east of
Jackson Street in Decatur, Adams County**

6:30pm Presentation

**Erekson Theatre at Belmont High School
1000 East North Adams Drive in Decatur**



WELCOME

- Rickie Clark, INDOT Office of Public Involvement
- Purpose / Explanation of Public Hearing
- Public Hearing Format
- Visit our sign-in table
- Informational Handouts
- Submitting public comments for hearings transcript
- Project display area



INDOT would like to hear from you

- Talk with INDOT project team members
- Comment sheet in information packet
- E-mail or Mail comments to INDOT
- Sign-in sheet to be added to project mailing list
- Visit INDOT website at www.in.gov/indot/2366.htm
“Public Involvement” Fort Wayne District page:
<http://www.in.gov/indot/2703.htm>
- All comments are very much appreciated and will be given full consideration by project team



Public Hearing

- Sign-in at attendance table to be added to project mailing list
- A public hearing notice was mailed to known property owners within project area
- Announcement of this hearing was posted to INDOT website. A media release was also issued
- Legal notice of public hearing published in Decatur Daily Democrat on 8/15/11 & 8/22/11



Introductions

- Introduction of INDOT Project Officials
- URS Corp (Design/Environmental) Consultant
- Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council (NIRCC)
- Recognition of Elected Public Officials
 - Honorable Mayor of Decatur, John L. Schultz

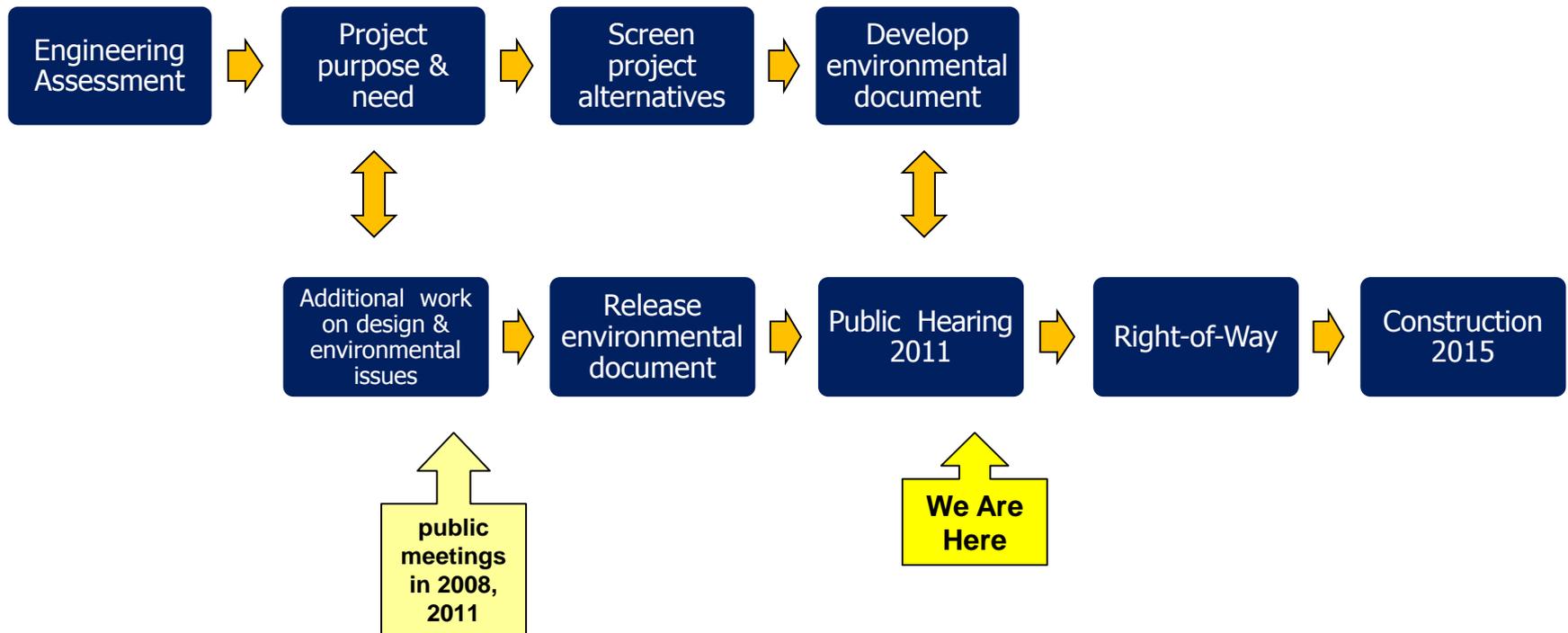


Project Stakeholders

- Indiana Department of Transportation
- Indiana Division Federal Highways Administration
- Northeastern Indiana Regional Coordinating Council (NIRCC)
- Adams County
- City of Decatur
- Local Communities
- Elected Public Officials
- Community residents and citizens
- Commuters
- Trucking industry



Project Development Process



Environmental Document

- Development of document begins once purpose of need for the project has been clearly identified
- Develop a number of possible alternatives including a “Do Nothing” alternative as a baseline for comparison
- Screen alternatives to identify a preferred alternative
- Solicit public comment on environmental document and preliminary design plan
- Solicit, address, and fully consider public comments as part of decision making process



Environmental Document

- Requirement of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
 - Requires INDOT to analyze and evaluate the impacts of a proposed project to the natural and socio-economic environments
 - Impacts are described in environmental document
 - Environmental document originally released for public involvement in 2005
 - Additional information document prepared in 2007



Environmental Document

- **Original project** area extended along US 224 from just east of Jackson/Adams intersection to just east of Monroe Street intersection (2005 project scope)
 - Elevate roadway to address flooding
 - Improve substandard shoulders and install roadside ditches



Environmental Document

- **Current Project** area was expanded west to the eastern end of St. Mary's River Bridge (2007 project scope)
 - Elevate roadway to address flooding, improve Jackson/Adams intersection
 - Storm sewers and inlets added along most of the project
 - Drainage structure under US 224 to be replaced by box culvert
 - Additional right of way needed to accommodate elevation of roadway



Elements of the Environmental Documentation

Real Estate

Air Quality

Noise

Farmland

Hazardous Materials

Historic/Archaeological

Community Impacts

Wetlands and Waterways

Floodplains

Threatened and Endangered

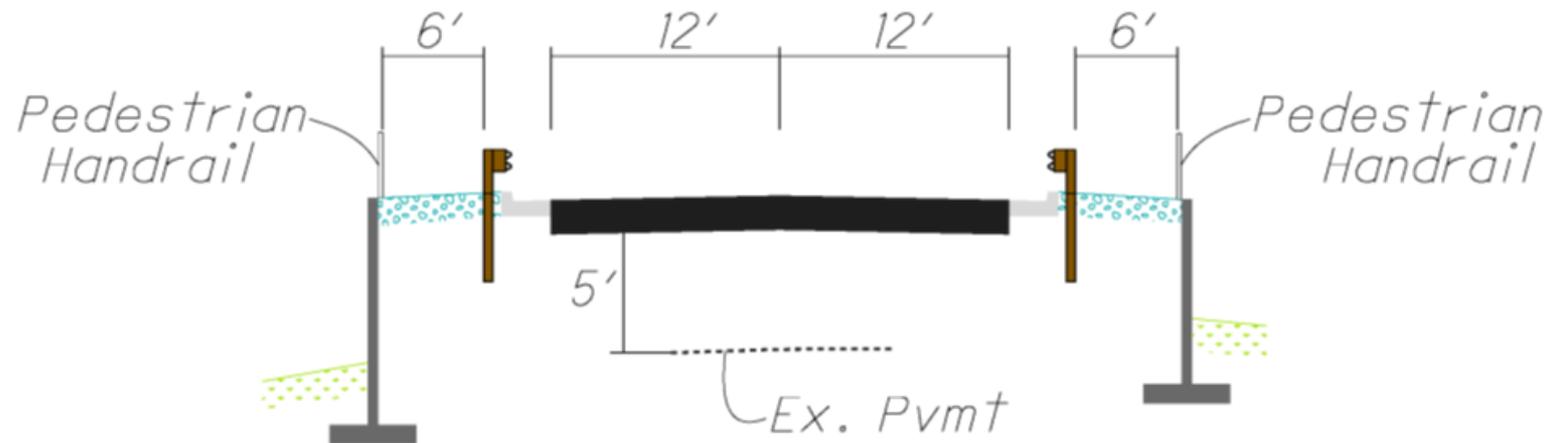
Species



U.S. 224 Road Reconstruction

Road replacement using 3R standards

- Raise the roadway profile elevation 5', add storm sewers, curb & gutters, handrails



U.S. 224 Road Reconstruction

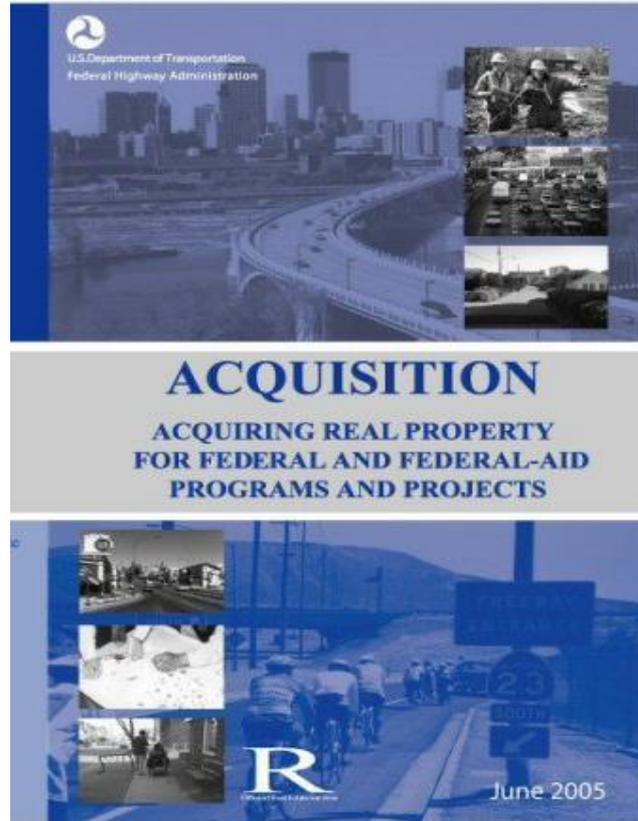


Jackson Street and North Adams Road

- intersection realignment
- signaled intersection



Real Estate Acquisition Process



Real Estate Acquisition Process

- How Land Is Purchased
 - Explains the process of buying property needed for highway improvements
 - Project requires 1.9 acres of permanent right-of-way
 - Utility coordination is in process



Real Estate Acquisition Process

- **“Uniform Act” of 1970**
 - All federal, state, and local governments must comply
 - Requires an offer for just compensation
- **Acquisition Process**
 - Appraisals
 - Review Appraisals
 - Negotiations



Project Schedule

- Public Hearing 8/30/11
- Finalize environmental and design phases of project 2011
- Real estate acquisition phase tentatively scheduled to begin 2011
- Project tentatively scheduled to begin construction 2015
- Anticipated cost to construct project is approximately \$3.5 million



Project Resource Location

- Fort Wayne District Office, 5333 Hatfield Road in Fort Wayne
- Responsible for transportation construction, maintenance and development activities in Northeast Indiana
- Neinformation@indot.in.gov 1-866-227-3555
- Bob Alderman, District Deputy Commissioner
 - Toni Mayo, Customer Service Manager
 - Susan Doell, Project Manager
 - John Leckie, Planning & Production Director



Public Involvement Team

- Rickie Clark, INDOT Office of Public Involvement (317) 232-6601 rclark@indot.in.gov
- Toni Mayo, Fort Wayne District Customer Service Manager / Media Relations Director (866) 227-3555 tmayo@indot.in.gov
- Susan Doell, Fort Wayne District Project Manager (866) 227-3555 sdoell@indot.in.gov
- INDOT website: <http://www.indot.in.gov> “Public Involvement” page



Submit Public Comments

- Submit public comments using the options described in 1st page of information packet
 - Public Comment Form
 - Via e-mail
 - Participating during public comment session via microphone
 - Verbal comments recorded and transcribed for inclusion into to public hearings transcript
- **INDOT respectfully requests comments be submitted by Friday, September 23, 2011**
- All comments submitted will become part of public record, entered into transcript, reviewed, evaluated and given full consideration during decision making process



THANK YOU

- Please visit with INDOT project officials
- Project Open House
 - Project maps, displays, real estate acquisition table, INDOT project officials, informal Q & A
- Thank you for your attendance this evening

